assistance is also provided to Slates/UTs under Central Sector Scheme "Training, Research and Monitoring" for providing training to the employees working in PDS operations and for purchase of a computer system in the Directorate of Food & Civil Supplies of the State Government/UT Administration in order to facilitate speedy flow of PDS related information besides funding the research studies on issues pertaining to PDS and food security.

In order to assist north eastern and hill States, Govt, of India is reimbursing road transport cost on actual basis for lifting of foodgrains from the base depot of FCI to the designated Principal Distribution Centres (PDCs) under the Hill Transport Subsidy (HTS) scheme for PDS foodgrains in the north eastern States and hill States.

Keeping in view the consensus on increasing the allocation of foodgrains to families below poverty line (BPL) Government of India increased the allocation for BPL families from 10 kg to 20 kg of foodgrains per family per month *w.e.f.* 1.4.2000. The number of BPL families for each State/UT, has been increased *w.e.f.* 1.12.2000 by shifting the base to the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of the earlier population projections of 1995. The BPL allocation of foodgrains has been increased from 20 kg to 25 kg per family per month *w.e.f.* July, 2001.

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancement of production and productivity of food grains in the country. Special schemes have been evolved with a regionally differentiated strategy for concerted action in the under developed regions like eastern and north eastern states. Greater emphasis is also being given for development of diversified cropping pattern particularly for development of horticulture, oilseeds and pulses so as to ensure better returns to the farmers and also to meet demand/supply gap.

A.C.P. Scheme for Assistant Managers in F.C.I.

474. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that about 250 Assistant Managers

(Engineering Graduates/ Diploma holders) have not been given even one promotion during the last 20—25 years of their service;

(b) if so, why Government's ACP Scheme, which specifically been introduced to take care of such cases, has not been implemented by FCI so far when the same has been implemented by organisations like CPWD, DDA, NDMC, etc.; and

(c) what are the reasons for this arbitrary treatment being given to these Assistant Managers (Engineering) when people of comparable grades in other cadres have been given two to three promotions during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) As far as the Government of India's ACP Scheme is concerned, the same is not applicable to FCI. Promotions in FCI arc vacancy based and not time bound. Further, promotions arc cadre linked wherein an officer belonging to one cadre is promoted in the same cadre to a higher post if the vacancy exists. Steps are being taken to tackle this problem of stagnation.

Probe into rejection of wheat by Iraq

475. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian high delegation, which visited Iraq to probe rejection of two wheat shipment, has since given its report;

(b) if so, what are the findings; and

(c) what are the reasons that the stringent quality norms for separating sands, stones and other inorganic matter has required by Baghdad were not followed by the Indian exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Iraq has recently rejected four consignments of wheat exported by three parties from India. Iraq has rejected the wheat consignment from India insisting that the cargo should be totally free from inorganic matter, such as, sand, silica, dust and asphalt, and also live insects.